

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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October Farm Labor

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 33,000 hired workers on farms and ranches the week of October 12-18, 2003, up 6 percent from the 31,000 workers the week of July 6-12, 2003. According to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service, hired workers worked an average of 45.0 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$8.24 per hour, up 11 cents from last year.

There were 1,197,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 891,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 40.4 hours a year ago.

For More Information Call: (208) 334-1507.